

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



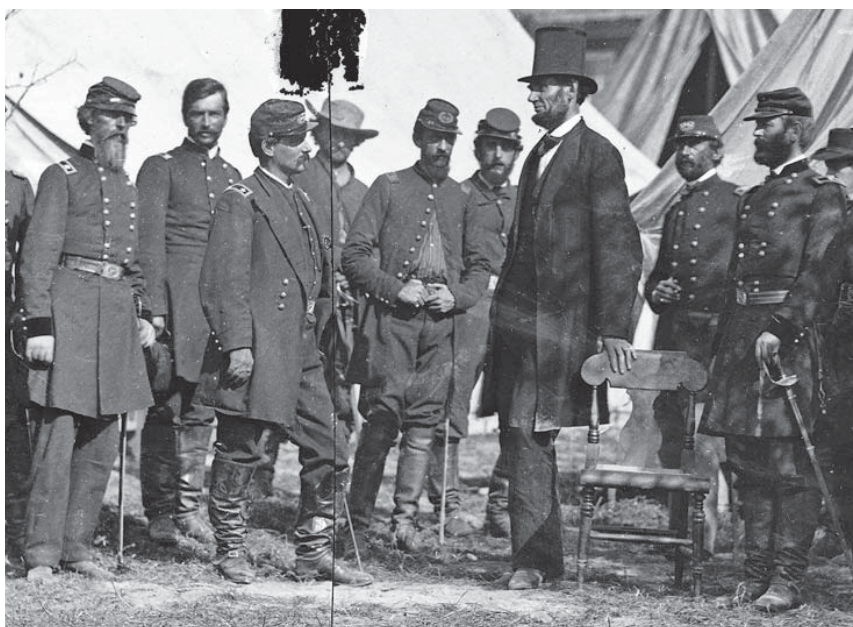
October 4, 2007, The One Hundred and Forty-Seventh Year of the Civil War

- NOTICE -

New Meeting Date for October - October 4, 2007

“George McClellan: Lincoln’s Worst Nightmare”

McClellan and Lincoln at Antietam LOC



defiance of President Lincoln, his painfully slow Peninsula Campaign, retreat during the Seven Days Battles, timidity at The Battle of Antietam, and his on-going refusal to use the full force of his Army of the Potomac. Don't miss what is sure to be a “loaded” presentation on **“George McClellan: Lincoln’s Worst Nightmare”**. Mr. Bonekemper will have available for sale this new book as well as several of his others, and will be happy to sign them for you. If you can, arrive a few minutes early to have your books signed, or better yet, join us at 5:30 as we head out to a local establishment for a bite to eat before the meeting. *See you a **week earlier** than usual on **Thursday, October 4th** for this most interesting and informative presentation.*

This will be another great meeting that you don't want to miss...

Take note that the October meeting of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table will be held a week **earlier** than usual on **Thursday, October 4** starting at **7:30 PM** at the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia. Returning to Old Baldy will be **Edward H. Bonekemper III** to discuss his new book **“McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence, and Worse”**. Mr. Bonekemper last spoke at Old Baldy in the Spring of 2005 when he discussed his book *“A Victor Not A Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant’s Overlooked Military Genius”*. While Union General George B. McClellan has certainly garnered his share of criticisms, Bonekemper’s new book delves further into his missed military opportunities to perhaps end the war earlier, which so infuriated Lincoln. The author also explores McClellan’s operational ineptitude, fear of failure, and even cowardice. Bonekemper addresses “Little Mac’s” over-blown sense of importance, his

President's Message

Although I grew-up in an around Duluth, Minnesota, I missed the opportunity of living at the same time as Duluth’s most famous citizen, **Albert Woolson**, who was supposedly the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic. (Woolson died on 2 August 1956 – I was born just twenty-two days later!) I do distinctly recall, however, being taken as a child by my father, to visit Woolson’s grave.

My first impression of listen to veteran’s stories undoubtedly came from sitting at the knee of my grandfather and sitting enraptured while he told stories of the Great War. Most of the stories were funny and I never tired of hearing them over and over. Then, during Christmas of 1968, my father and uncle had the foresight to tape my Grandfather’s recollections. Over the course of two days the old Dough-boy dug deep into the recesses of his memory to tell things

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Bring a friend, neighbor and another Civil War buff to enjoy a fascinating subject and to support our speakers at Old Baldy.

that I never heard before or since. It was the only time that I, or my father, ever saw my Grandfather cry. That was an incredible learning experience for me in so many ways. Among the things that I learned that weekend were that painful realities of war last forever and one of our greatest historical resources are the living veterans.

Recently OBCWRT founder **Mike Cavanaugh** and I made our annual trip to Fredericksburg, Texas to the national Museum of the Pacific War's annual symposium. This year the subject was Midway and Guadalcanal and as with previous years, the two-day event was a mixture of lectures by historians and veterans.

Among the veterans who spoke were **Rear Admiral D.M. Showers**, who was part of the crack group of code breakers at Pearl Harbor who broke and translated the Japanese code as part of the Combat Intelligence Unit known as HYPO. **Commander Harry Ferrier** flew with the famed Torpedo Squadron Eight, from USS Hornet at the battle of Midway. Today he is the only aircrewman of Torpedo Squadron Eight to survive. Also speaking at the same panel was Japanese Zero ace **Kaname Harada**, who flew against Torpedo Squadron Eight at Midway! Haradasan said that he recalled shooting down two or three planes from Torpedo Squadron Eight from that flight that day. It

was those kinds of stories for two days.... I sat there in awe, gape-mouthed, with goose-flesh running up and down my arms.... It was great honor and a truly humbling experience to be in the presence of and listen to the experiences of such great men.

The last Civil War veteran died more than fifty years ago, there are literally only a handful of Great War veterans alive world-wide, and World War II veterans are passing at the rate of more than 1500 per day. However, there are more than a million veterans of America's other wars who's stories need to be preserved. If you are a veteran or know of a veteran whose story should be preserved there are a number of organizations that are very interested in doing so, including the Veteran's History Project at the Library of Congress. Part of the American Folklife Center, the project is collecting the stories of thousands of veterans. You may visit their website at: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Please note the change in this month's meeting date!!

Be well!!!

It's hard to believe that the summer is already over....

Steven J. Wright, President

September 20th, 2007 meeting "The Last Days of Civil War Notables"

Our guest speaker was **Dr. Sidney Copel**. Dr. Copel is a noted clinical psychologist who retired from practice in 1995 after serving as Administrator at the Devereux Institute as well as in private practice. He served as psychological consultant to schools and police departments, and as consultant for selection of player personnel for the Pro-Football Eagles, Rams, and Broncos. His presentation "**The Last Days of Civil War Notables**", highlighted the post-war lives of some well-known and not-so-well-known personalities of the era, George Meade, Cole Younger, (who had 14 bullets in his body when he died), Joshua Chamberlain, James Longstreet, Dan Sickles (our favorite scoundrel), Belle Boyd (with her many lovers), and many others. The stories ran from the humorous to the very tragic. It was another well attended and enjoyable presentation.

Dr. Sidney Copel



Gettysburg Compiler July 6, 1886

A NEW SENSATION.

Gen. Sickles Comes Here to Deliver his Great Speech of Vindication.—Col. A. Wilson Norris Rushes into the Field in Advance with a New Charge.

The Soldiers of the Third Corps become indignant and "Rally Round" their Old Commander. Unbounded Enthusiasm for Gen. Sickles.

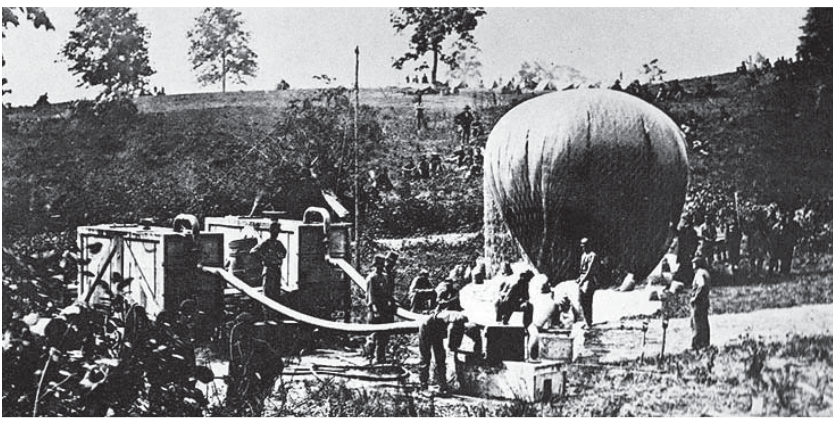
The reunion of the Third Corps became, as was expected, a leading feature of last week's life and excitement here; and the published fact that Gen. Sickles would take that occasion to explain and vindicate his movement in bringing on the engagement of the second day, served to add to the number of visitors.

He was, however, brought to face a new charge. At the unveiling of the State monument where Reynolds fell, on the day previous, (Thursday.) Col. A. Wilson Norris, of Philadelphia, not content with eulogizing the gallant First Corps and its quality gallant commander, Gen. Reynolds, branched off into the direct charge of unnecessary delay on the part of Gen. Howard and Gen. Sickles in reaching the Gettysburg battlefield. Col. Norris said:

"The disaster which overtook the First Corps and almost annihilated its [] divisions was in a large measure due to the failure of General Howard and Sickles to reach Gettysburg with their respective corps at the time they were ordered to be there.

"If General Howard had moved his corps promptly within supporting distance of the First Corps and taken position with two divisions on the right of First Corps, with the Third Division held in reserve on Cemetery Hill, as he

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Today in Civil War History

Friday October 4 1861

Lincoln watches a balloon ascension

President Abraham Lincoln observes a balloon demonstration near Washington, D.C. Both Confederate and Union armies experimented with using balloons to gather military intelligence in the early stages of the war, but the balloons proved to be dangerous and impractical for most situations.

Though balloons were not new, many felt that their military applications had yet to be realized. Even before the firing on Fort Sumter in April 1861, several firms approached the U.S. War Department concerning contracts for balloons. The primary figure in the Union's experiment with balloons was Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, an inventor who had been experimenting with hydrogen balloons for three years before the war. He built a large craft and intended to make a transatlantic crossing, but his tests were failures. In April 1861, he conducted trials around Cincinnati, Ohio, with the support of the Smithsonian Institute. On April 19, he sailed 900 miles in nine hours, floating all the way to Unionville, South Carolina. He was jailed twice by Confederates who were convinced he was a Union spy.

Lowe became the chief of army aeronautics after the First Battle of Bull Run, and he served effectively during the Peninsular campaign of 1862. With the view provided from his balloon, he discovered that the Confederates had evacuated Yorktown and he provided important intelligence during the Battle of Fair Oaks.

Lowe enjoyed a good working relationship with George McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, but experienced difficulty with McClellan's successors, Generals Ambrose Burnside and Joseph Hooker, who were not convinced that balloon observations provided accurate information. Lowe became increasingly frustrated with the army, particularly after his pay was cut by 40 percent in 1863. Feeling that army commanders did not take his service seriously, Lowe resigned just after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. The Balloon Corps was disbanded three months later, and the U.S. Army did not use them again until 1892.

www.history.com

Additional Events of October 4th

Friday Oct. 4 1861

Carolina Captures Confederate Cache

The USS South Carolina was on patrol in the Gulf of Mexico this morning. More specifically she was on

blockade duty, charged with the task of assisting Union vessels and impeding those of the Confederacy, or anyone attempting to do business with them. She fulfilled that mission admirably today when she caught sight of the schooners Ezilda and Joseph R. Toone making for New Orleans. The warship gave chase below Southwest Pass and in short order captured both vessels. They proved excellent prey, carrying as they did between 4000 and 5000 stands of arms.

Saturday October 4 1862

Vandorn 'Victory' Vaguely Vexatious

Actually, calling the Battle of Corinth a victory for either side would be questionable. In an action which had started yesterday in the important Mississippi railroad junction, the Confederate forces under Gen. Van Dorn had attacked the Federal army northwest of the town. They made progress for awhile, forcing the Union men back into fortifications. Today the assault was renewed, since part of the urgency of the attack was to encourage U. S. Grant to pull back to Tennessee. The fighting was fierce for the two days, with casualties estimated at 2500 Union dead and around 4200 for the Southerners. And the conclusion of hostilities Van Dorn pulled his battered force back to Chewalla, Miss.

Sunday October 4 1863

Burial Backlog Brings Baleful Blight

After the battle of Gettysburg, as after all battles, parties were detailed to bury the dead, usually where they fell. As the dead were many and the burial parties few these efforts were often sketchy, and the armies had barely moved out of town before the "resurrections" began. Some of these body removals were done by grieving relatives wishing to take their kinfolk home for proper funerals. Other reappearances resulted from weather washing the dirt off the rude graves. The organized effort to disinter all the corpses for relocation to the National Cemetery then in the planning stages did not begin until much later. A problem promptly arose from the fact that the July heat had not been kind to the corpses. It was decided today that due to the advanced state of decomposition, reburials could not be done until after the first frost stabilized the ground. The first frost did not come to Gettysburg in 1863 until October 25.

Tuesday October 4 1864

Hood Harassment Huge Hindrance

Gen. John Bell Hood, CSA, had had his difficulties with pitched battles, either losing most of them or withdrawing from outflanked positions before battle even began. He was finally having success with his mission to slow Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's march across the South by attacking his garrisons in the rear. Hood's men were in firm control of the Chattanooga-Atlanta Railroad lines, and skirmishing was taking place at Moon's Station, Lost Mountain and Acworth. Sherman was getting reports pleading for relief, and today he decided to provide it. Leaving only one corps to hold Atlanta, he started back up the line to deal with Hood. He established headquarters at Kennesaw Mountain and got to work.

www.civilwarinteractive.com



The White Oak from Seminary Ridge



The Monument to the Confederate Dead killed at Gettysburg



Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, North Carolina (Union soldier found buried with Confederate Gettysburg dead)

Another side trip on my way back from my three week trip to Georgia and Florida to visit family. I wanted to get some photographs in the cemeteries of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina where Confederate Dead from the battle of Gettysburg were reinterred... My last stop was Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Cemetery is historical, beautiful and well kept...

"Within its 102 acres, the Confederate Cemetery, located on the original two and one-half acres given for that purpose by Henry Mordecai in 1867. Herein lie nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers. Adjoined with the Confederate Cemetery is the impressive House of Memory. Erected in 1935 to commemorate those brave soldiers of the Confederacy, today its bronze memo-

rial plaques recognize the many North Carolina service men and women who have served our country in times of conflict." ...www.historicoakwoodcemetery.com

There is a monument to the Gettysburg Dead and recently a small White Oak Tree from Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg was planted...

One of the more interesting stories I heard from Sharon Freed, Office Manager of Oakwood, was that a Union soldier had been buried by mistake with the Confederates... He was Private John O' Dolson of the 2nd US Sharpshooters Regiment, Company A and from Minnesota... he was killed at Gettysburg and was mistakenly buried on the battlefield with Confederate dead... so when the Daughters of the Confederacy had the Confederates reinterred to North Carolina, John went along...

When I was taking photos I saw an American flag by a CSA headstone so I took the photo not knowing the story... On September 23, 2007 a ceremony to replace the CSA headstone with a USA headstone was held with full Civil War Military Honors...

Don Wiles

Notice

The Maj. Gen. John A. Logan Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is raising funds for a stone monument that will be placed near Pvt. John O. Dolson's new Federal headstone in Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery and will explain how he came to his final resting place among Confederate hosts. The headstone dedication will occur on September 23, 2007 at 1:00 P.M. As part of the ceremony, the headstones for two previously unknown Confederate soldiers will be replaced with new markers that document the men's recently-discovered identities. Events will include speeches; concerts by the Raleigh Concert Band and bagpiper Robert White; and demonstrations by the 2nd US Sharpshooters and the 6th North Carolina Infantry. Those interested in donating to the Dolson monument fund should make their check payable to the Pvt. John O. Dolson fund and send it to Brother John France, Secretary/Treasurer Maj. Gen. John A. Logan Camp #4, 204 Granite Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

-NOTICE-

The October meeting has been moved to Thursday October 4, 2007

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers for 2007

October 4, 2007 - Thursday

"George B. McClellan: Lincoln's Worst Nightmare"
Ed Bonekemper, on his new book

November 8, 2007 - TBA

December 13, 2007 - Thursday

"Glory" and Me:

A Professor's Short Love/Hate Affair with Hollywood
Dr. Gregory Urwin, Professor of History, Temple University

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM at the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum, 1805 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Questions to Harry Jenkins at 856-428-8773 or hj3bama@comcast.net

Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner between 5:30 & 6 P.M.

You're Welcome to Join Us!

At All Times Ready: United States Marines in the Civil War



*A battalion of Marines drilling at the Philadelphia Navy Yard
USAMHI*

By Herb Kaufman

The present Marine Corps was established by an act of Congress on July 11, 1798. The Corps, however, celebrates Nov. 10, 1775, as its founding date. It was on that day that the Continental Congress authorized the formation of two battalions of Marines. The first commissioned officer, Capt. Samuel Nicholas, recruited many of this first group in the historic Tun Tavern near Philadelphia.

During the early part of the 19th century, the Marines were assigned to guard naval installations and to serve aboard ships-of-the-line. While the Marines served with distinction in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, they remained as a small cadre of men who were generally considered as an adjunct to the Navy.

In October, 1859 John Brown and his loyalists attacked the United States Arsenal at Harper's Ferry with the intention of instigating a slave insurrection. Brown and 21 other men had attacked the arsenal with the expectation that slaves in Virginia would rise up and join a rebellion, allowing him to form and command an "emancipation army."

Receiving information that a band of armed men had captured the arsenal, Secretary of War John B. Floyd immediately began to seek armed forces to travel to Harper's Ferry and capture or kill the insurgents. At that time the army was very small and most men were stationed in the west. There were few soldiers available along the east coast. President Buchanan directed the Secretary to quickly act to end this assault and bring this insurrection to a close.

Floyd was almost powerless to comply. The nearest forces were artillery stationed at Fort Monroe. At that point secretary of the Navy Isaac Toucey came forward and suggested that the Marines guarding the Washington Navy Yard be called into action. Floyd immediately agreed, and within a short time Lt. Israel Greene and 86 Marines boarded a train for the trip to Harper's Ferry.

Floyd then called upon Colonel Robert E. Lee to take command of the troops being assembled. First Lieutenant James Ewell Brown Stuart, then on leave in Washington, volunteered to accompany Colonel Lee, and both then boarded a train and followed the Marines to the site of the insurrection.

When negotiations with the insurgents failed, Lt. Greene and 26 Marines assaulted the engine house where they had taken refuge. The Marines splintered the bolted door

and charged into the room. Within three minutes the siege was over. Brown and his men were either dead or captured. Two Marines lay wounded, one fatally. Lee and the Marines marched the captured men to Charlestown, and John Brown's attempted rebellion came to an end.

With the beginning of the Civil War, Congress authorized an increase in the strength of the Marines to a total of 3,000 men. Considering that at the wars' end, 3 million men had been in uniform, we can recognize that the

Marines of this era were not the strike force that we recognize today.

Regardless of their small numbers, Marines served honorably and with distinction in many battles. There was a battalion of Marines with the Union forces at First Bull Run, and Marines participated in the landings at New Orleans and the attacks on Charleston and Fort Fisher. During the four years of the conflict 148 Marines were killed and 17 received the Medal of Honor.

The first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor was Corporal John F. Mackie for gallantry at Fort Darling at Drewry's Bluff. His citation reads, "fearlessly maintained his musket fire against the rifle pits on shore, and when ordered to fill vacancies at guns caused by men wounded and killed in action, manned the weapon with skill and courage."

On August 5, 1864, twenty-three year old Miles Oviatt was serving as Corporal of Marines aboard the U.S.S. Brooklyn during Admiral Farragut's attack in Mobile Bay. His Medal of Honor citation states that, "Despite severe damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked the deck, Cpl. Oviatt fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious two hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the Confederate ram Tennessee."

Richard Binder was born in Philadelphia in 1840. He served as a Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps on the U.S.S. Ticonderoga. His citation states: "On board the U.S.S. Ticonderoga during the attacks on Fort Fisher, 24 and 25 December 1864, and 13 to 15 January 1865. Despite heavy return fire by the enemy and the explosion of the 100-pounder Parrott rifle which killed 8 men and wounded 12 more, Sgt. Binder, as captain of a gun, performed his duties with skill and courage during the first 2 days of battle. As his ship again took position on the 13th, he remained steadfast as the Ticonderoga maintained a well-placed fire upon the batteries on shore ..."

These are but three examples of the courage and tenacity exhibited by the United States Marines during the Civil War. While small in numbers, the Marines never lacked in bravery or honor. During the four years of the war, Marines fought in many horrific actions both on ships and ashore. They never faltered and always maintained their discipline.

In the 1997 book, *Making the Corps*, the author states that, "The United States Marine Corps, with its fiercely proud tradition of excellence in combat, its hallowed rituals, and its unbending code of honor, is part of the fabric of American myth."

Report of Maj. Homer R. Stoughton, Second U.S. Sharpshooters. Battle of Gettysburg

HDQRS. SECOND REGIMENT U. S. SHARPSHOOTERS,
July 27, 1863.

Capt. JOHN M. COONEY, A. A. G.,
Second Brig., First Div., Third Army Corps.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the operations of the Second U.S. Sharpshooters at Gettysburg, Pa., as follows:

On the morning of July 2., I was placed in line on the extreme left of the Third Corps, remaining there for nearly one hour, when the colonel commanding instructed me to place my command in a position to cover a ravine near Sugar Loaf hill, which I did by putting Company H on the brow of the hill, with vedettes overlooking the ravine, and Company D in the ravine near the woods, to watch the enemy's movements in that direction. Companies A, E, G, and C formed a line perpendicular to the cross-road that intersects with the Emmitsburg pike. Companies B and F, I held in reserve.

I remained in this position until about 2 p.m., when General Ward directed that I should deploy my regiment across the ravine and through the woods on the right, and advance. I moved forward to a brook some 200 yards beyond a second cross-road running perpendicular to the Emmitsburg pike, and intersecting with it in front of Sugar Loaf hill. I sent forward scouts to reconnoiter the ground. I then rode out perhaps the distance of half a mile, and discovered the enemy's skirmishers advancing on my right, which, being unsupported by any connection with skirmishers on my right, I was compelled to withdraw to protect my flank. In this position we had but little time to wait. The enemy's skirmishers advanced to the top of the hill in our front, and immediately after they placed a battery directly in our front, and being too far for our range, I sent forward a few men under cover of woods on the left, and silenced one piece nearest us.

The enemy then advanced a line of battle covering our entire front and flank. While they were advancing, the Second Regiment did splendid execution, killing and wounding a great many. One regiment broke three times, and rallied, before it would advance. I held my position until their line of battle was within 100 yards of me and their skirmishers were pushing my right flank, when I ordered my men to fall back, firing as they retired. My left wing retreated up the hill and allowed the enemy to pass up the ravine, when they poured a destructive fire into his flank and rear

Here Adjutant Norton, with about a dozen men, captured and sent to the rear 22 prisoners. Special mention should be made of this officer for his coolness and bravery during this day's engagement.

The right wing fell back gradually until they mingled with the regiments composing the Second Brigade, and remained till night, when the brigade was relieved. In this day's action were wounded Capt. E. T. Rowell (acting major), J. McClure, and A. Buxton. Our

2nd United States Sharpshooters Monuments at Gettysburg



2nd USSS (New Hampshire)
Location: Hancock Avenue

2nd USSS (Michigan)
Location: Little Round Top



2nd USSS (Maine)
Location: Bushman Farm



2nd USSS (Vermont)
Location: Slyder Farm

loss was 28 killed, wounded, and missing. Among the missing was Lieut. D. B. Pettijohn, Company A.

On the 3d instant, the Second Regiment was not engaged, with the exception of about a dozen volunteers, who went out to the front of the breastworks of the First Army Corps, to silence one of the enemy's guns, which was accomplished, losing 1 killed and 1 wounded.

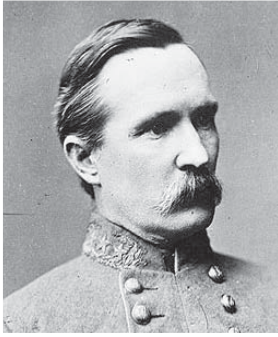
On the 4th instant, I was ordered to move forward to the Emmitsburg pike, a few hundred yards to the left of the cemetery, and to deploy four companies to skirmish through the field to the woods in front. The enemy was driven back to his earthworks, about 150 or 200 yards from his first position. We held this position through the day, under a sharp fire from his sharpshooters.

The regiment sustained a loss this day of 3 killed and 8 wounded. Among the wounded was Lieutenant Law, Company E.

At 7.30 p.m. I was relieved by a New Jersey regiment, of the Sixth Corps, and rejoined the brigade.

I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

HOMER R. STOUGHTON,
Major, Commanding Second U.S. Sharpshooters.



Gen. Henry Heth. New York Times September 29, 1899

Gen. Henry Heth, the Confederate leader and historian, died yesterday at his home in Washington, of Bright's disease. His end had been expected for several weeks. He was born in Virginia in 1825, and was graduated at the United States Military Academy in 1847.

He entered the Sixth Infantry and became First Lieutenant in 1853, Adjutant in 1854, and Captain in 1855. In 1861 he resigned and entered the Confederate Army as Brigadier General. In May, 1863, he was commissioned Major General. He was one of the most conspicuous chieftains in the Confederate service. He commanded a division of Gen. A. P. Hill's corps in Virginia and rendered notable service at the battle of Gettysburg, at Chancellorsville, and throughout the campaigns of 1864 and 1865. When the war closed Gen. Heth took up his residence in South Carolina, where he engaged in business. Of late years Gen. Heth lived in Washington, where he was occupied chiefly in literary work as a historian of the campaigns in which he took part.

Gen. Heth was a warm friend of Gen. Grant when both were subalterns in the "old army." Heth was a man of strict habits, and in his early days gave much study to the customs and needs of the Indian tribes with which he came into contact. His knowledge of the red men was recognized throughout the army, and he was often consulted in matters pertaining to them. At the close of the war Gen. Heth was almost in destitute circumstances. He had procured some humble employment in Richmond when Gen. Grant was inaugurated President. Grant remembered his old companion in arms, and wrote to him inviting him to Washington. When he came the President told him that he wanted him to take charge of the Indian Bureau, but Gen. Heth declined. Some years later, when the frauds in the departments were being investigated, Gen. Grant again sent for Heth and asked him to be a personal adviser. This was accepted and he proved an efficient aid to the President in purging his administration.

Funeral services will be held at the Church of the Epiphany in Washington at 10 o'clock this morning, and the interment will be at the Hollywood Cemetery at Richmond, Va. Next Friday.

Courtesy of Ginny Gage, The Camp Griffin Gazette



had been directed to do, instead of coming up at one o'clock, when the First Corps had been engaged for over three hours, the result of the first day's fight would have been different.

"General Sickles had an order from General Reynolds to march to Gettysburg on the morning of July 1. This order was delivered to him as early as one o'clock on that morning. He was only twelve miles away, and yet with this positive order he did not break his camp until afternoon and did not reach Gettysburg until night.

"If General Sickles had carried out his orders as his superior officer, General Reynolds, expected, he, also, would have been at Gettysburg to have taken his place on the left of the First Corps, and have likewise saved it from the terrible loss it sustained. Meade is dead, Reynolds fell here, and Hancock, amid the grief of the whole nation, was recently laid in his grave. Meade intended to fight, but was seeking grounds of his own choosing wherein to win the fight. Reynolds, with a large discretion, knowing of this purpose of Meade and burning with a desire to meet the enemy, was sent by Meade to cover the concentration of his troops, and, finding an advantageous place to strike the enemy, delivered the blow and sent word to Meade to come up with the remaining corps.

"Hancock, who selected the final position for the fight, and who himself located Sickles' Corps, confirmed Reynolds' judgment in selecting Gettysburg for the battle by sending word to Meade to push forward with the rest of the army. It will not do to call this an accidental combat of no significance, and especially when the language falls from the lips of one who has never explained why he did not obey Reynolds' order and reach Gettysburg until after the shadows of night had fallen over that bloody field, where the First Corps had sustained the severest loss suffered by any individual corps in a battle of the war."

Courtesy of Ginny Gage, The Camp Griffin Gazette

Continued in the November issue

Old Baldy Dinner

The Old Baldy CWRT will hold a fund raising dinner on Saturday April 5, 2007 at Williamson Restaurant in Horsham PA. The featured speaker will be **Dr. Thomas Lowry** author of six books on the Civil War including the highly acclaimed "*The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex in the Civil War.*" Dr. Lowry's topic will be "**Great Hits of the Courts-martial: A Riotous Compendium.**" This is a humorous look at the odd items that turned up in Dr. Lowry and his wife's extensive research of Union courts-martial records at the National Archives. Further details will be available over the next few months. Mark you calendar - SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2008.

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
1805 Pine Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
215.735.8196
Founded January 1977

Annual Memberships
Students: \$12.50
Individuals: \$25.00
Families: \$35.00

President: Steve Wright
Vice President: Richard Jankowski
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman
Secretary: Bill Hughes

The Civil War Institute

While it may seem that summer has barely begun, we all know how quickly the seasons fly past. And what else can that mean except that it will be September before we know it, and the school bells will be ringing once again. While some of us may be past our school days, it's never too late to have fun learning.

Whether you're an old pro at taking the courses at the Civil War Institute, or you're new to the program, why not check out what we have to offer!

Our Fall 2007 semester begins on Thursday September 6. Once again, we are offering two "core" courses (indicated by **) and three electives, including a new course on the Antietam Campaign. And, of course, all classes are Act 48 approved. Class hours are 6:30 till 8:30 p.m.

Call (215) 884-2218 to register or for an application for the certificate program. Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA.

Abraham Lincoln – The "War Years"

– 6 hours – Abraham Lincoln can not be separated from the Civil War; the war years were his presidency. This course takes an in-depth look at those 50 months of his presidency starting with his election in 1860 to his inauguration and the coming of the Civil War. Each year was a crucial one dealing with war, politics, slavery, with Congress, his cabinet; the press with attacks on him and his wife. Difficulties in finding the general he wanted. His running for reelection in 1864 added to this aged man before the eyes of America. His 50 months in the White House ended at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865. This course will look at who he was, what

he accomplished in those war years and what is the Lincoln legacy.

Date: Wednesdays, October 10, 17, 24

Fee: \$45

Seminar taught by: Hugh Boyle

****The Gettysburg Campaign**

– 12 hours - Two mighty armies engaged by chance in the greatest single battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. A detailed examination of events leading up to the battle and each day's activity will be covered. Did the mighty Army of the Potomac finally get the leadership it deserved? Did Robert E. Lee blunder in his strategy? Did his commanders let him down? Would he have prevailed if Jackson were alive? Was James Longstreet, Lee's "war-horse," right in his view of the battle?

Date: Mondays, October 29; November 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec 3

Fee: \$77

Seminar taught by: Frank Avato

Antietam Campaign

– 12 hours - This is an account of the bloodiest day in American Military History. It turned out to be one of the most decisive battles of the war and gave President Lincoln the chance to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. Even after he received a captured copy of General Robert E. Lee's plans, Union General George McClellan, known to President Lincoln as a man who had "a bad case of the slows", couldn't take the initiative. Union and Confederate forces pounded each other through the Cornfield, the Sunken road and over Burnside's Bridge. The battle blocked the South's chance for European recognition.

Date: Thursdays, November 29; December 6, 13

Fee: \$45

Seminar taught by: Jerry Carrier

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